

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A livestock loading chute for attachment to a dock loading livestock trailer, the dock loading livestock trailer being characterized as having a trailer floor, a rear frame and a roll-up door contained within the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer, said livestock loading chute comprising:

an upper chute section attached to the rear frame of the livestock trailer, said upper chute section having an upper section adjustable ramp adjustable between a dock loading position wherein said adjustable ramp is essentially horizontal and a ground loading position wherein said adjustable ramp extends downwardly away from the rear of the dock loading livestock trailer; and

a lower chute section attached to said upper chute section, said lower chute section having a lower chute section ramp extending downwardly away from said upper chute section, so that said upper chute section adjustable ramp in said ground loading position and said lower chute section ramp are generally aligned to provide a livestock loading path beginning about 12 inches above the ground and extending upwardly to within about six inches of the level of the floor of the dock loading livestock trailer.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein said lower chute section is attached to said upper chute section by a plurality of hinges so that said lower chute section swings on said hinges between a ground loading position wherein said upper chute section adjustable ramp and said lower chute section ramp are generally aligned and a transport position wherein said lower chute section is secured to a portion of the rear frame of the livestock trailer so that, when said lower chute section is secured in said transport position and said upper chute

section adjustable ramp is adjusted to said dock loading position, said upper chute section provides a pathway for loading livestock from a dock.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said upper chute section further comprises upper chute section sides to contain livestock within said upper chute section.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein said upper chute section adjustable ramp has an upper portion and a lower portion and wherein at least one of said metal sides has a slit therein, said device further comprising at least one chain attached to said lower portion of said upper chute adjustable ramp, said chain terminating in a chain hook, so that said chain hook is received by said slit when said upper chute section adjustable ramp to support said lower end portion of said upper chute adjustable ramp so that said upper chute section is in a generally horizontal position for loading livestock from a dock.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said upper chute section adjustable ramp further comprises traction cleats attached to said adjustable ramp.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein said lower chute section ramp further comprises traction cleats attached to said lower chute section ramp.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein said upper chute section adjustable ramp further comprises a rubber bumper.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein said lower chute section ramp further comprises a rubber bumper.

9. The device of claim 1 wherein said upper chute section is welded to the rear frame of the livestock trailer.

10. A livestock loading chute for attachment to a dock loading livestock trailer, the dock loading livestock trailer being characterized as having a rear frame and a roll-up door contained within the rear frame, said livestock loading chute comprising:

an upper chute section;

a lower chute section; and

attachment means for attaching said upper chute section to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer.

11. The device of claim 10 wherein said attachment means for attaching said upper chute section to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer further comprises:

a plurality of female receivers attached to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer, each said female receiver having a female receiver transverse bore therethrough;

a plurality of mating male inserts attached to the upper chute section, each said mating male insert having a male insert transverse bore therethrough, so that each of the mating male inserts is received into one of said female receivers and said receiver transverse bore aligns with said male insert transverse bore; and

a plurality of latching pins, whereby one of said latching pins is disposed within aligned said receiver transverse bore and said male insert transverse bore, so each said male insert is secured within each said female receiver.

12. The device of claim 10 wherein said attachment means for attaching said upper chute section to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer further comprises a plurality of hinge assemblies connecting said upper chute section to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer.

13. The device of claim 10 wherein said attachment means for attaching said upper chute section to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer, said upper chute section being further characterized as having an upper chute section frame including at least four upper chute section vertical frame members and at least four upper chute section horizontal frame members, said attachment means further comprising:

- at least two sleeves attached to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer;
- at least one bore in each of two said upper chute section vertical frame members;
- a threaded bolt disposed through each of said bores and through each of said sleeves;

- a washer attached to each said threaded bolt, said washer being attached to each said threaded bolt forward of the rear frame in the dock loading livestock trailer; and

- a nut attached to each said threaded bolt, so that tightening of said nut on said threaded bolt secures said upper chute section to the rear frame of the dock loading livestock trailer.